



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES

**Monday, May 12, 2008  
6:00 PM**

*FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,  
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522  
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*"The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life."*

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, Gene Brosious, Susanne Puffer, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, Lesley Robinson, Donald Hawecker and Virginia Werly.

Absent: (excused) James Stream

It was noted by the COD that the meeting of April 14, 2008 was adjourned due to lack of a quorum. Commissioners Robinson, Puffer and Hawecker were delayed due to the mechanical break down of their Special Transportation bus en route to the meeting.

The COD welcomed its newest Commissioner, Virginia Werly. Commissioner Werly is the Contract Operations Manager for the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA).

Also present was Building & Safety Division Sr. Plans Examiner Paul Hamilton, Building & Safety Division Senior Building Inspector, John Peine, and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction. *Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.*
  - A. Roberta Dabo, Resident Ms. Dabo requested a signal for a pedestrian crossing on Magnolia at Beatty. She noted that there is a crosswalk at this location but there is a lot of traffic and it is difficult for the disabled to cross Magnolia, especially the visually impaired.
  - B. Foster Brown, Resident -
  - C. MBH Associate Architect Brandon Dedmon
  - D. MBH Senior Associate Architect Gregory Simonoff
3. Minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2008

M/S Van Doren/Robinson to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES – 7 (Keller, Van Doren, Brosious, Puffer, Garcia, Robinson, Hawecker); NOES – 0; ABSENT – 1 (Stream); ABSTAIN – 2 (Welch, Werly).

## OLD BUSINESS

In deference to guest speakers, Old Business will be address after New Business is concluded.

4. Status Report - Community Outreach: Additional Advertisement of the COD – Special Transit and Press Enterprise Ads. The ads are an attempt to inform the community that the COD conducts regular public meetings.

The ADA Coordinator provided proofs that the newspaper ads concerning location, date and time of the COD meetings ran in the Press Enterprise.

5. Discussion - Disabled Disaster Preparedness – Target Established Neighborhood Groups

The COD discussed a new plan to reach the community concerning disabled disaster preparedness. The plan would include working through established Neighborhood Groups in an effort to provide awareness of disabled neighbors who might need assistance in case of an emergency. This would entail working with the Emergency Services Manager (Community Emergency Response Team), Housing and Neighborhoods Division of the Development Department, and other emergency response organizations, like the Red Cross, who would want to participate and provide information concerning disabled emergency preparedness. The main message would be that each community should know who their disabled neighbors are and where the disabled live. This is the vital link missing in terms of the disabled and their ability to efficiently reach emergency shelter in an emergency.

The COD discussed that the Red Cross had asked for input so that they have a better idea of what the disabled needed when they needed shelter in emergency situations. There are many different issues involved with emergency response and evacuation centers.

Commissioner Van Doren reported that the State of California Office of Emergency Services was working on disaster related issues concerning the disabled. The COD needs to be in contact with this state office to remain informed about developments at the State level. The State is developing effective action plans on this subject. A coordinated effort is required. Commissioner Van Doren provided contact information to the ADA Coordinator concerning a State volunteer organization. Commissioner Van Doren suggested a model, San Diego County, which demonstrated an extraordinary network of volunteers who assisted with the needs of the disabled during the fire disaster last year.

Commissioner Hawecker will contact the Red Cross to ask for pamphlets for community distribution. He will also request Red Cross help in preparation of informational packets on disabled emergency preparedness and evacuation shelters. Question: What are shelters doing to ensure that the sites are accessible?

The COD could act as a coordinator of the different emergency groups to develop a view of emergency preparedness from the disabled perspective.

## 6. Update – COD PSA Schedule – Airtimes on Channel 3

This item was noted by the COD. Monthly updates will be provided for the COD.

## NEW BUSINESS

Jurupa Bridge has no accessibility to cross the bridge during construction and the disabled need to cross at Dewey in order to cross. Request that Public Works investigate and advise.

## 7. Report - Galleria Parking Structure – Compliant Height Clearances

The Galleria Parking Structure is an issue that was presented to the COD by John Lonberg at the March 10, 2008 COD meeting. The issue is that the parking structure contained insufficient clearance to meet Building Code ADA requirements. Building & Safety Division Sr. Plans Examiner Paul Hamilton and Building & Safety Division Senior Building Inspector John Peine were in attendance to report the status on resolution of these concerns.

Sr. Plans Examiner Hamilton has been with the City for 17.5 years and is the lead plan reviewer for disabled access issues. Sr. Plans Examiner Hamilton noted that Mr. Lonberg had produced photographs which showed a 7' 5" elevation headroom clearance sign in the new parking structure beneath the Galleria theatre when the minimum required clearance is 8' 2". He noted that Building & Safety immediately started an investigation and notified the property owner to correct the violation. The next step was for the owner's design team to identify solutions to the violations.

The investigation determined that some areas marked 7' 5" were actually much higher, although less than 8' 2". Mr. Hamilton noted that the project architect and the construction project manager were in attendance and currently working toward correcting the construction deficiencies. He noted that the project architect had engaged Mr. Lonberg to meet at the site to review specific issues and develop corrective action.

Mr. Hamilton noted that, the City does not dictate specific design solutions but does hold the property owner responsible for correcting the violation within a reasonable time frame. The permit has not been finalized on this project and it is still an active and open permit. Corrective action is warranted and being aggressively pursued by the architects.

MBH Architect Gregory Simonoff explained that the 7' 5" sign hung in the parking garage inaccurately reflected actual clearances. MBH Architects provided diagrams which showed corrective actions to be taken. The diagrams outlined:

1. Existing conditions,
2. An alternate parking layout,
3. Revised driving pattern and
4. Relocated disabled parking.

In response to a question from the COD regarding disabled access, Mr. Hamilton advised that City sidewalks, curb cuts, crosswalks etc, which are in the public right of way were the domain of the Public Works Department: The Building & Safety Division, by State law, is empowered to enforce access regulations outside of the public right of way and looks at property and businesses, tenant improvements and new construction buildings, with the exception of hospitals and schools. He noted that each month, the Building & Safety Division performs thousands of inspections, of which over 40% are disabled access related. He noted that he spends approximately 6 or 7 hours per day on disabled access related issues. The City of Riverside works extremely hard to ensure that disabled access standards are in compliance. The entire Building & Safety Division is committed to ensuring that the required level of disabled access is provided on all projects under review.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

8. Board and Commission Training – Code of Ethics and Conduct, Brown Act, Conflict of Interest – March 31, 2008, City Hall Council Chambers, from 5-8 pm.

This item was noted by the COD. Board and Commission attendance is required every two (2) years.

9. Neighborhood Conference – May 31, 2008 – Pre-Registrations Complete

The ADA Coordinator will make sure that there is a table reserved for the COD.

10. Third Annual Inland Empire Caregiver Symposium – Friday, April 18, 2008 at California Baptist University

This item was noted by the COD.

11. Fourth Annual Senior Expo – Monday, June 2, 2008 at Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center

This item was noted by the COD.

12. Outdoor Senior Information Fair & BBQ, June 7, 2008 at Wildomar Senior Living Community

This item was noted by the COD.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

### 13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- A. Parks and Recreation - detailed description of universally accessible parks.
- B. Discussion Item: Public Service Announcement concerning Proper Placement of Trash Containers in conjunction with Public Works Solid Waste Division –Next Steps

### 14. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- A. Performance Measurement from Code Enforcement concerning Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Containers and Vehicles (standing report)

Date	Postcards Distributed by Code Enforcement
January 2008	70
February 2008	Not Available
March 2008	Pending

15. ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 pm.